

up as garbage or litter where they take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. A national bottle bill will help us turn this trend around.

A national bottle recycling program would have profound economic benefits from energy savings for American businesses. The energy use associated with manufacturing these containers from virgin materials is far greater than the cost of using recycled materials. In fact, making an aluminum can from recycled materials requires 95 percent less energy than to make it from scratch.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on Earth Day. Passing this bill would send a clean energy message in a bottle to American consumers and businesses. A national Bottle Bill can help America quench its thirst for imported oil and will allow us to have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

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IN MEMORY OF MEGAN MILLER

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**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the remarkable life of Megan Miller. I was deeply saddened to learn of her passing and believe her courage in the face of adversity is something special that deserves recognition today on the floor of the people's House.

Megan Nichole Miller was born on November 26, 2000, to her loving parents, Scott and Suzanne Miller of Jamestown, Indiana. Megan attended Granville Wells Elementary School and was a member of New Brunswick Church of Christ.

Though Megan faced remarkable challenges throughout her brief time with us, she will be remembered by her friends and family for the spirit with which she lived and the faith that guided her life. Megan's passion for life brightened the world for everyone around her. Instead of focusing on her physical difficulties, she used her disabilities to teach others the importance of accepting all people—no matter what their circumstances. It is fitting that Megan loved music, especially hymns about God and heaven, where I am certain she is now.

None were more blessed by Megan than her family. She shared a special bond and deep love with her sister Hannah. Megan's parents are forever blessed by their remarkable daughters, and have gained a greater understanding of the worth that we all carry in the eyes of God.

Though Megan sadly has passed away, those who knew her will continue to benefit from the inspiring example that she set throughout her life. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the doctors and nurses who gave Megan the best possible care and my deepest condolences to Scott, Suzanne, and Hannah.

GEORGE MASON AWARDED USAID GRANT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a recent announcement from USAID indicating that Virginia's George Mason University was one of 40 paired winners of the highly competitive Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

George Mason will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation. The development of this sort of higher education is critical to Africa's future development, particularly in nations like Sierra Leone, which not too many years ago had been ravaged by civil war.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AWARDED USAID-FUNDED GRANT IN AFRICA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE GRANT COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Higher Education for Development (HED) announced today that George Mason University is one of 40 paired winners of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. George Mason University and other paired winners will receive planning grants from USAID of \$50,000 each (a complete list of winners may be found at [www.hedprogram.org](http://www.hedprogram.org)).

"This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa," said Joseph Carney, director of USAID's Office of Education. "This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants."

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

George Mason University will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation, under the sponsorship of Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, and under the direction of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

HED manages the competition which grew out of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative ([www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)), a collaborative effort between a number of higher education associations and other organizations, led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A.P.L.U.), formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

"We were elated by the astounding number of highly qualified applications received, and even more pleased by how many applications demonstrated a strong understanding of higher education needs in Africa," said Dr. Tully Cornick, executive director of HED. "The top 40 paired winning institutions represent the best of these applications, and

plans that are developed as a result of the grants will address a variety of critical development needs. It is our belief that if funding is found to implement these plans, we will see tangible, measurable and sustainable impact made in these African countries."

"This important initiative continues to illustrate the enormous unmet need for higher education partnerships in Africa," added Peter McPherson, president of A.P.L.U. "We see this as just the beginning—this is an ongoing campaign to accomplish much more in engaging higher education institutions in Africa."

HED, funded by a cooperative agreement with USAID, was founded by the six major U.S. higher education associations to engage U.S. colleges and universities in international development. For more information about HED and to view details about the planning grants corn petition, visit [www.HEDprodam.orcl](http://www.HEDprodam.orcl).

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. For more information on USAID, visit [www.USAID.gov](http://www.USAID.gov).

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THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 22, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the suffering of millions of Armenians between 1915 and 1923 due to actions by the Ottoman Empire. In those eight years, approximately 2 million Armenians were deported from their traditional homeland. Of those, 1.5 million were senselessly killed and the remaining 500,000 were expelled from their homes. This genocide served as models for other horrific massacres and ethnic purges that sadly persisted throughout the 20th century.

There is broad agreement that indeed what took place was genocide. On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers England, France and Russia issued a joint statement charging the Sublime Porte of committing "a crime against humanity." The U.S. showed firm opposition to the unfolding horrors. Secretary of State Lansing in 1915 authorized the Ambassador to the Sublime Porte to engage to "stop Armenian persecution," and President Wilson set up relief funds for the victims and survivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster children of the American people.

Genocide was also corroborated by German and British archives and records of diplomats who served in the Ottoman Empire at the time. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive documentation on the genocide, and the UN General Assembly in 1946 and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide recognized the Armenian Genocide as they type of crime the U.N. intended to prevent and punish by codifying existing standards. In 1975, a House Joint Resolution designated April 24 of that year as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man" in part to remember all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry.

We welcome steps today by the governments of Turkey and Armenia—as the official